

"Irvin Hall", Highland Junior College
Highland
Doniphan County
Kansas

HABS No. KANS-9

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

IRVIN HALL

Street Address: Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas

Present Owner: Highland Junior College, Highland, Kansas

Present Occupant: None

Present Use: Student Union and Library

Brief Statement of Significance: This Territorial brick structure has an interesting architectural treatment and was the first building of the oldest institution of higher learning in Kansas.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Highland Junior Collegee Highland, Kansas
2. Date of erection: 1859 (Kansas State Historical Society, The Kansas Historical Quarterly, Summer 1957, Topeka, Kansas, A Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas, n.a., p. 125).
3. Architect, builder, suppliers, etc.: No information
4. Original plans, construction, etc.,: (See supplemental material Part I, D)
5. Notes on alterations and additions: None
6. Important old views listed (with location): None

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Highland University is the oldest institution of higher learning in Kansas. The charter was granted on February 9, 1858 and Irvin Hall, the first building of the university, was completed in 1859. The Highland Town Company donated the four (4) blocks of land on which the building stands. The school was an outgrowth of the Presbyterian Mission to the Iowa, Sac and Fox Indians.

C. Likely Sources not yet Investigated: Records at Highland Junior College, Highland, Kansas.

D. Supplemental Material:

1. The Highland Vidette, October 7, 1937, Highland, Kansas

"Plans for the first building were procured and a contract made for the needed lumber which was hauled in wagons with ox teams from St. Joseph, Missouri and Doniphan, Kansas. The corner stone was laid in 1858. Some Coins in use at that time, copies of the Highland paper and some Eastern papers, a copy of the charter, and a history of the organization of the institution were put in."

2. Doniphan County Directory 1868-1869, 1869, n.a., pa. 294,

"The present building is of brick 40 by 60 feet, and walls twenty-five feet high, and so constructed as to be one wing of a main building yet to be erected. (Thus no pilasters on the north side?, JPN) It is divided into a large chapel room, 40 by 40; two school-rooms 20 by 40 each; two recitation rooms, a room for apparatus, one room for a library, and an entrance hall."

Prepared by JO Noffsinger date 7/58

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This two-story brick building has an interesting wall and chimney treatment and has considerable dignity for such a small building.
2. Condition of Fabric: The walls are in fair condition. Some of the chimneys have a decided lean.

B. Exterior, Technical Description of:

1. Overall dimensions: About forty (40) feet by sixty (60) feet.
2. Foundations: Random sizes of native limestone.
3. Wall construction: Fourteen inch (14") thick brick wall with pilasters laid up in common bond.
4. Porches: None
5. Chimneys: Six chimneys, three on the north and three on the south sides all of brick.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Dressed stone lintels and thresholds with wooden frames. Side lights and transoms were used. The doors are of panelled pegged wood construction.
- b. Windows and shutters: Stone lintels and sills, wood frames. Wooden four (4) paned pegged sash type windows. No evidence of shutters.

7. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: gable roof, modern asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Simple wood molding.
- c. Dormers, cupolas: No dormers. A large bell tower of wood was constructed near the east facade of the building.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: At the east entrance there is an entrance hall with a double stairway and a small room on each side. This is repeated on the second floor. The area beyond this on the first floor was divided into two equal school rooms. The corresponding area on the second floor was one large space, presumably used as a chapel.
2. Stairways: Original double stairways with simple design and trim.
3. Flooring: Original floor on second floor. First floor is being recovered with rubber tile.
4. Wall and Ceiling finish: Walls are plastered and covered with wallpaper. Tongue and groove beaded wood boards cover the ceiling.
5. Doorways and doors: Simple wood frames for doors. Doors are panelled wood.
6. Trim: Walnut molding - simple design.
7. Hardware: Perhaps some original hardware left.
8. Lighting: No original lighting left.
9. Heating: Stove - chimney system no longer used.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The building is situated on a level lot (part of the campus) and faces east.
2. Enclosures: None
3. Outbuildings: none
4. Walks: Modern walk to front and side doors
5. Landscaping: A few trees exist on the site.

Prepared by J. R. Noffsinger date 7/58